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13. NOTES ON A COLLECTION OF TICKS WITH A NEW HOST RECORD OF *HYALOMMA AEGYPTIUM FEROSDENI* SHARIF (IXODIDAE)

Recently I had an opportunity to study a small collection of Ixodid ticks received from the Head of the Department of Zoology, Panjab University, Chandigarh. The material includes: (i) *Hyalomma aegyptium ferozdeni* Sharif—2 ♂♂, Chandigarh, Panjab (off donkey), 15-7-1961; (ii) *Hyalomma aegyptium aegyptium* (Linnaeus)—8 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀, Ferozapore, Panjab (off camel) 30-7-1961; (iii) *Rhipicephalus sanguineus* (Latreille)—4 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, Chandigarh, Panjab (off donkey), 15-7-1961.

Four subspecies of *Hyalomma aegyptium* (Linnaeus) are known, viz. *H. aegyptium aegyptium* (Linn.), *H. aegyptium dromedari* Koch, *H. aegyptium isaaci* Sharif, and *H. aegyptium ferozdeni* Sharif. Sharif (1928) reviewed the taxonomy, distribution, and hosts of these subspecies.

H. aegyptium ferozdeni Sharif (1928) was described from 3 ♂♂, and 1 ♀ specimen, found to be parasitic on cattle from Sasaram, Shahabad District, Bihar. Sharif also recorded it on cow (Chatra, Hazaribagh District, Bihar), on pony (Sasaram, Shahabad District, Bihar), and on buffalo (Porahat, Singhbhum District, Bihar). According to Sen (1938) cattle (*Bos indicus*), buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*), and horse (*Equus caballus*) only are the hosts of *H. aegyptium ferozdeni*.

This collection is quite interesting for two reasons. A perusal of the literature shows that the subspecies *ferozdeni* has not hitherto been recorded on donkey; secondly, this is the first record of its occurrence outside Bihar State.

Nagar (1962), while working on the ticks of Delhi State, expressed the view that both *H. aegyptium ferozdeni* Sharif and *H. aegyptium isaaci* Sharif belong to *H. detritum* Schulze, *H. aegyptium* f. *aegyptium* (Linn.) to *H. excavatum* Koch, and *H. aegyptium dromedari* Koch to *H. dromedari* Koch. In the present paper, Sharif's (1928) key has been followed, pending further research on the systematics of these species. Incidentally, it may be worth mentioning that *H. detritum* Schulze is also not recorded on donkey.

In the present case *H. aegyptium ferozdeni* has been found associated with *Rhipicephalus sanguineus*, which is of considerable economic importance as the vector of malignant jaundice of dogs in India caused by *Babesia canis* (Piana & Galli-Valerio) and of Marseilles fever due to *Rickettsia conori* Brumpt in the Mediterranean region and Kenya colony, and which is a suspected vector of tick typhus fever in man and *Babesia gibsoni* (Patton) in jackals and dogs in India (Sharif 1938). It may be interesting to investigate whether *H. aegyptium ferozdeni* plays a part in the distribution of the diseases transmitted by *Rhipicephalus sanguineus*.

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